

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3807

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, AR

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON POLITICAL SECTIONS OF CAMPORA
SPEECH

REF: BA-3748

1. SUMMARY: WHILE, AS INDICATED IN REFTEL, CAMPORA SAID VERY LITTLE THAT WAS NEW IN HIS INAUGURATION SPEECH, OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY IT MORE CLOSELY REVEALS FOUR ADDITIONAL POLITICAL POINTS OF MORE THAN USUAL INTEREST: 1) EMPHASIS ON ARGENTINA'S ROLE WITHIN THIRD WORLD; 2) STRONG CRITICISM OF OAS AND SUGGESTION THAT IT DOES NOT ANSWER NEEDS OF LATIN AMERICAN STATES; 3) ADVERSE REFERENCE TO FOREIGN MILITARY MISSIONS; 4) EMPHASIS ON MILITARY'S SUBORDINATION TO CONSTITUTION AND ELECTED AUTHORITY. END SUMMARY.

2. CAMPORA STRESSED ARGENTINA'S IDENTIFICATION WITH THIRD WORLD AND INDICATED CLOSE RELATIONS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD BE MAJOR THREAT OF NEW FOREIGN POLICY. ARGENTINA DID NOT WISH TO ADOPT POLICY OF "FALSE PRESTIGE" IN INTERNATIONAL ARENA, HE SAID-- WHICH IN ANY EVENT USUALLY AMOUNTED TO PLAYING ROLE OF PAWN FOR ONE OF BIG POWERS. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT RIGID BIPOLAR WORLD HAD GIVEN WAY TO PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND INCREASINGLY MULTIPOLAR CONFIGURATION, CAMPORA PLACED EMPHASIS ON TIES
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OF SOLIDARITY WHICH LINKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, MOST OF WHICH HAD BEEN EXPLOITED TO ONE EXTENT OR ANOTHER BY IMPERIALISM, WERE STRUGGLING FOR FULL NATIONAL LIBERATION, AND HAD TO STICK TOGETHER AGAINST INDUSTRIAL GIANTS.

3. EMPHASIS ON THIRD WORLD IS OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK FOR MORE ACTIVE AND WEIGHTIER ARGENTINE ROLE ON INTERNATIONAL STAGE. SINCE IT CANNOT PLAY ON SAME COURT WITH BIG POWERS, IT WILL TRY FOR LEADERSHIP ROLE AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THERE IS SOME IMMEDIATE CONTRADICTION OF TERMS IN SUCH A ROLE, SINCE ARGENTINA ITSELF IS NOT AN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY.

4. CAMPORA INDICATED THAT ARGENTINE POLICY IN LATIN AMERICA WILL BE PART OF GENERAL THIRD WORLD FRAMEWORK AND WILL STRESS HEMISPHERIC INTEGRATION. HE REPEATED PERON'S OBSERVATION THAT BY YEAR 2000 LATIN AMERICA WOULD EITHER BE UNITED OR DOMINATED. IT WAS NO WONDER OAS SUFFERING A SEVERE CRISIS, HE SAID, SINCE IT HAD BEEN FORMED AS COLD WAR INSTRUMENT AND DID NOT SERVE CAUSE OF PEOPLE'S LIBERATION. COLD WAR NOW OVER AND LATIN AMERICAN PROBLEMS HAD TO BE SOLVED ON ITS OWN GROUND. THIS CAME AS CLOSE AS CAMPORA EVER HAS TO SAYING OAS HAS OUTLIVED USEFULNESS AND SHOULD BE REPLACED BY ALL-LATIN ORGANIZATION.

5. CAMPORA HELD FORTH AT SOME LENGTH ON NEW ROLE OF ARMED FORCES. RE-READING OF SPEECH, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS HIS WORDS LESS HARSH THAN THEY SEEMED AT FIRST GLANCE. EMPHASIS WAS ON CONSTITUTIONAL RULE OF ARMED FORCES, ON THEIR NEED TO STAY OUT OF POLITICS AND ON NEED TO BE ADEQUATELY TRAINED AND EQUIPPED TO CARRY OUT THEIR PROFESSIONAL TASK OF DEFENDING COUNTRY. FROM MAY 25 FORWARD, CAMPORA CONCLUDED ON CONCILIATORY NOTE, PEOPLE WOULD FEEL ARMED FORCES AT THEIR SIDE PARTICIPATING IN NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION.

6. IN REMARK WHICH MAY BODE ILL FOR U. S. MILITARY MISSION, CAMPORA STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD "REJECT ALL EFFORTS AT INTERFERENCE ON THE PART OF FOREIGN STRATEGIC CENTERS IN THE ASSIGNMENT OF MISSIONS TO OUR FORCES AND, CONSEQUENTLY, IN THEIR TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT."

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